

Nan-yang, which has a well-developed network of highways extending south to Hupeh Province, west to Shensi Province, and into all parts of Honan Province. 361
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Wuhan, the largest municipality in Central China and the provincial capital of Hupeh, comprises the tri-city of Wuchang, east of the Yangtze River; Hankow, north of the Han River and west of the Yangtze; and Hanyang, south of the Han River. A 1952 estimate placed the population of Wuhan at 1,200,000. Of the three parts of Wuhan, Hankow was a center of bristling political activities in the 1920's when the Nationalist and Communist parties quarreled through their first short-lived coalition, and both parties were, at the same time, torn with internal strife. At Hanyang, an ordnance plant that has done a great deal for China's growing armament is being expanded under Communist direction. In this community, sprawling over the confluence of the Han and Yangtze rivers, a large-scale reconstruction program has been launched to remodel the parks and to build a people's square, a worker's cultural palace, a martyr's memorial, and other structures for public use. [62]

In August 1955, the plan for a modern railway bridge on the Yangtze River at Wuhan was reaching its final stage. When this bridge is completed there will be direct connection between the Peking-Hankow and Hankow-Canton railways. [389]

The section of the Yangtze River in Hupeh Province is navigable for river steamers all year round. West of I-ch'ang, the Yangtze River flows through the famous gorges, which pose a difficult problem for the most experienced navigator. The Communist press has repor-